

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal, the system comprising:
 - a processor that produces an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data corresponding to one or more electronic books;
 - a transmitter, connected to the processor, that transmits the electronic signal; and
 - a home subsystem, wherein the home subsystem includes:
 - a connector that receives the electronic signal;
 - means, connected to the connector, for selecting a portion of the textual data, comprising means for receiving a subscriber entry indicating a title of an electronic book, wherein the title correlates to a portion of the textual data;
 - a library comprising:
 - an electronic collection of electronic books, ordered and transmitted electronically via the transmitter, wherein in response to a transmitted order, the ordered electronic book is transmitted from a remote operations center to the home subsystem and stored in the library unit of the home subsystem until a selection is received to view the electronic book;
 - means for associating subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the collection of electronic books;
 - means for storing the subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the collection of electronic books;

means for receiving one of a subscriber-entered selection and a subscriber-defined selection;

a menu generator that determines and generates a particular library menu of the books located in the collection based on at least one of the received selection and a default menu and generates a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection; [[and]]

means for selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on at least one of the subscriber-entered selection and the subscriber-defined selection; and

a display, connected to the connector, that displays the particular library menu of books relating to the determination of the menu generator, and displays the subscriber-created data associated with each of the books included in the particular library menu.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor produces the electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor produces the electronic signal as a signal to be transmitted over a telephone system.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display displays an electronic representation of books on a book shelf; related to the textual data.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display formats the menu according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification number, or category, related to the textual data.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a microprocessor that receives an indication of a selected portion of the textual data

identified by the menu, and wherein the display displays the selected portion of the textual data.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display displays a default menu.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the connector comprises a set top terminal with a memory for storage of the selected textual data, and the display comprises a television.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a portable, hand-held viewer.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor comprises an encoder.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitter module comprises a broadcast television transmitter.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitter comprises a cable television transmitter.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the connector further comprises a cable connector, that extracts textual data from a video formatted composite signal.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises: a library unit connected to the connector, for processing the textual data, comprising:
digital logic for screening the textual data; and
a first memory for storing the textual data; and
a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for displaying the textual data as text.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the library unit and the viewer are contained within a common housing.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the viewer comprises:
a second memory for storing textual data received from the library unit;
a microprocessor, connected to the second memory, for controlling the functions of the viewer;

a digital display circuit, connected to the microprocessor, for creating displays; and

a liquid crystal display, connected to the digital display circuitry, for displaying text.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the second memory for storing textual data comprises a removable electronic card memory.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing text material in textual data form using an electronic signal and a transmission medium, comprising:

processing an electronic order for one or more electronic books;

transmitting the electronic order over a transmission medium from a home subsystem to a remote operations center;

in response to the electronic order, coding textual data corresponding to one or more electronic books onto an electronic signal;

transmitting the electronic signal over a transmission medium from the remote operations center to the home subsystem to be stored in a library unit of the home subsystem until the one or more electronic books is selected for viewing;

receiving the electronic signal from the transmission medium;

storing the textual data in an electronic collection at the subscriber's location;

associating subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the electronic collection;

storing the subscriber-created data associated with individual electronic books located in the electronic collection;

receiving one of a subscriber-entered selection and a subscriber-defined selection;

determining whether to generate a particular library menu of the books located in the electronic collection based on at least one of the received selection and a default menu and whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;

selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on at least one of the subscriber-entered selection and the subscriber-defined selection;

displaying the particular library menu relating to the determination along with the subscriber-created data associated with each of the books included in the particular library menu; and

receiving a subscriber entry indicating a title of an electronic book, wherein the title correlates to a portion of the textual data.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the coding step comprises producing the electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises displaying an electronic representation of books on a book shelf, related to the textual data.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises formatting the menu according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification number, or category, related to the textual data.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
receiving an indication of a selected portion of the textual data
identified by the menu; and
displaying the selected portion of the textual data.
23. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step
comprises displaying a default menu.
24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the receiving step
comprises receiving the video signal from a set top terminal with a memory for
storage of the selected textual data, and the displaying comprises using a television
to display the menu.
25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step
comprises using a portable, hand-held viewer to display the menu.
26. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the coding step comprises
using an encoder for coding the textual data onto the electronic signal.
27. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the transmitting step
comprises using a broadcast television transmitter for transmitting the electronic
signal.
28. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the transmitting step
comprises sending the textual data without any video, using the textual data to fill an
entire channel of video, and using a cable television transmitter to send the textual
data.
29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the receiving step
comprises extracting textual data from the video formatted composite signal.
30. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step
comprises:

using a library unit connected to the connector for processing the textual data; and

using a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for displaying the textual data as text.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising using a common housing to contain the library unit and the viewer.

32. (Withdrawn) A system for transmitting, receiving, and searching text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal, comprising:

a module that produces an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data;

a module, connected to the producing module, that transmits the electronic signal;

a module that receives the electronic signal; and

a module, connected to the receiving module, that searches the textual data, based upon a user-entered parameter, in order to locate a portion of the textual data relating to the parameter.

33. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32, wherein the producing module comprises a module that produces the electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

34. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32, wherein the searching module comprises a module that searches the textual data according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification number, or category, related to the textual data.

35. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32, further comprising:

a module that receives an indication of a selected portion of the textual data identified by results of the searching module; and

a module that displays the selected portion of the textual data.

36. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32, further comprising a module that displays information related to results of the searching module.

37. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 36, wherein the displaying module comprises a module that displays an electronic representation of books on a book shelf, related to the textual data.

38. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 33, wherein the receiving module comprises a set top terminal with a memory for storage of the selected textual data, and the displaying module comprises a television.

39. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 36, wherein the displaying module comprises a portable, hand-held viewer.

40. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 36, wherein the producing module comprises an encoder.

41. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32, wherein the transmitting module comprises a broadcast television transmitter.

42. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 33, wherein the textual data is sent without any video and fills an entire channel of video and wherein the transmitting module comprises a cable television transmitter.

43. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, wherein the receiving module further comprises a cable connector, comprising a module that extracts textual data from the video formatted composite signal.

44. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 33, wherein the producing module places the textual data into the vertical blanking interval of the video formatted

composite signal and wherein the a selecting module comprises a vertical blanking interval extractor to select a portion of the textual data.

45. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 36, wherein the displaying module comprises:

a library unit connected to the connector for processing the textual data comprising:

digital logic for screening the textual data; and

a memory for storing the textual data; and

a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for displaying the textual data as text.

46. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 45, wherein the library unit and the viewer are contained within a common housing.

47. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 45, wherein the viewer comprises:
a memory for storing textual data received from the library unit;
a microprocessor, connected to the memory, for controlling the functions of the viewer;

a digital display circuit, connected to the microprocessor, for creating displays; and

a liquid crystal display, connected to the digital display circuitry, for displaying text.

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 47, wherein the memory for storing textual data comprises a removable electronic card memory.

49. (Withdrawn) A method for distributing text material in textual data form using an electronic signal and a transmission medium, comprising:

coding textual data onto an electronic signal;

transmitting the electronic signal over a transmission medium;
receiving the electronic signal from the transmission medium; and
searching the textual data, based upon a user-entered parameter, in
order to locate a portion of the textual data relating to the parameter.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein the coding step
comprises producing the electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein the searching step
comprises searching the textual data according to title, author, International
Standard Book Number, classification number, or category, related to the textual
data.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, further comprising:
receiving an indication of a selected portion of the textual data
identified by results of the searching; and
displaying the selected portion of the textual data.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, further comprising displaying
information related to results of the searching.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the displaying step
comprises displaying an electronic representation of books on a book shelf, related
to the textual data.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the receiving step
comprises receiving the video formatted composite signal from a set top terminal
with a memory for storage of the selected textual data, and the displaying comprises
using a television to display the menu.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the displaying step
comprises using a portable, hand-held viewer to display the menu.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein the coding step comprises using an encoder for coding the textual data onto the electronic signal.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein the transmitting step comprises using a broadcast television transmitter for transmitting the electronic signal.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the transmitting step comprises sending the textual data without any video, using the textual data to fill an entire channel of video, and using a cable television transmitter to send the textual data.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein the receiving step comprises extracting textual data from the video formatted composite signal.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the displaying step comprises:
using a library unit connected to the connector for processing the textual data; and
using a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for displaying the textual data as text.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, further comprising using a common housing to contain the library unit and the viewer.

63. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal in response to the transmission of an electronic purchase order, comprising:

means for producing an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data;

means, connected to the producing means, for transmitting the electronic signal, in response to receiving an electronic purchase order, from a remote operations center to a home subsystem, wherein the electronic text is stored in a library unit of the home subsystem until selected for viewing;

means for receiving the electronic signal;

means connected to the receiving means, for storing an electronic collection of the received electronic signal containing a representation of textual data at the location of the subscriber;

means for associating subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the collection of electronic books;

means for storing the subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the collection of electronic books;

means for receiving one of a subscriber-entered selection and a subscriber-defined selection;

means, connected to the storing means and the means for receiving the selection for determining whether to generate a particular library menu of the textual data located in the electronic collection based on the received selection and a default menu and whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection; [[and]]

means, connected to the storing means for selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on at least one of the subscriber-entered selection and the subscriber-defined selection; and

means, connected to the receiving means, for displaying the particular library menu relating to the textual data and based upon the determination, and

displaying the subscriber-created data associated with each of the books included in the particular library menu.

64. (Withdrawn) An electronic book catalog system for use with an electronic book unit, comprising:

a connector coupled to the electronic book unit, the connector receiving data related to an electronic book, the data including book classification data;

a memory that stores the received data; and

a processor that processes the stored data to produced an index of electronic books.

65. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 64, wherein the index is a user-defined index including one of author, time period, type of book., and book classification.

66. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 64. wherein the index is a standard library index.

67. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 66, wherein the library index is a Dewey Decimal Classification system.

68. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 66, wherein the library index is a Library of Congress classification system.

69. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 64, wherein the index includes an entry for the electronic book.

70. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 69, wherein an index entry is generated automatically when the electronic book is received at the electronic book unit.

71. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 69, wherein the index entry is generated manually after receipt of the electronic book.
72. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 64, wherein the index is displayed on a display.
73. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 64, wherein the electronic book unit is used to order electronic books, and wherein when an ordered electronic book conforms to an index electronic book, the electronic book unit provides a menu window indicating that the ordered electronic book exists in the electronic book unit.
74. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 64, wherein the electronic books are delivered to the electronic book unit via a telecommunications network.
75. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications system is a cable television system.
76. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications system is a wireless television system.
77. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications system is a broadcast television system.
78. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications network is a public switched telephone network.
79. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications network is a wireless telephone network.
80. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 64, wherein an entire index is displayed on a display.
81. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 64, wherein a portion of an entire index is displayed on a display.

82. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 81, wherein the portion of an entire index is based on a user-defined entry, the user-defined entry selected from the group including author, book category, key word, time period.

83. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 80, wherein the display is a viewer.

84. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 80, wherein the display is a television.

85. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 80, wherein the display is a personal computer.

86. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 80, wherein the display is a printer.

87. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 80, wherein the displayed index displays information related to the electronic book, the information including title, author and date of publication.

88. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 87, wherein the information further includes one of a summary and end notes.

89. (Withdrawn) A method for generating and displaying a particular menu for a plurality of electronic books, comprising:

accessing data associated with a plurality of electronic books;

receiving a request from a user for a menu relating to the electronic books;

generating the menu based upon the user's request; and

displaying the menu on a viewer.

90. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an electronic representation of the electronic books on a book shelf.

91. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89 wherein the displaying step includes formatting the menu according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification number, or category, relating to the electronic books.

92. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89, further comprising: receiving an indication of a selected one of the electronic books identified by the menu; and displaying at least a portion of the selected electronic book.

93. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89 wherein the displaying step includes displaying a default menu.

94. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89 wherein the displaying step includes using a portable, hand-held viewer to display the menu.

95. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89, further comprising receiving the electronic books through an electronic signal.

96. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89, further comprising storing the plurality of electronic books for display on the viewer.

97. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein the storing step includes storing the electronic books in the viewer.

98. (Withdrawn) A method for searching a plurality of electronic books, comprising:

accessing data associated with a plurality of electronic books;

performing a search of the accessed data;

displaying results of the search in a menu format on a viewer; and

selecting one of the electronic books for viewing using the displayed menu.

99. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98, further comprising receiving a request from a user for a search relating to the electronic books.

100. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98 wherein the searching step includes searching the electronic books according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification number, or category, relating to the electronic books.

101. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an electronic representation of a book shelf containing an indication of electronic books identified by the results of the search.

102. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98, further comprising: receiving an indication of a selected one of the electronic books identified by the results of the search; and displaying at least a portion of the selected electronic book.

103. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98 wherein the displaying step includes using a portable, hand-held viewer to display the results of the search.

104. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98, further comprising receiving the electronic books through an electronic signal.

105. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98, further comprising storing the plurality of electronic books for display on the viewer.

106. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 105 wherein the storing step includes storing the electronic books in the viewer.

107. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal, comprising:

a processor that produces an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data corresponding to one or more electronic books;

a transmitter, connected to the processor, that transmits the electronic signal; and a home subsystem, wherein the home subsystem includes:

a connector that receives the electronic signal;

selector, connected to the connector, for selecting a portion of the textual data, comprising input device for receiving a subscriber entry indicating a title of an electronic book, wherein the title correlates to a portion of the textual data;

a library comprising:

an electronic collection of electronic books, ordered and transmitted electronically via the transmitter, wherein in response to a transmitted order, the ordered electronic book is transmitted from a remote operations center to the home subsystem and stored in the library unit of the home subsystem until a selection is received to view the electronic book;

a receiving device for receiving one of a subscriber-enter criteria and a subscriber-defined criteria;

a menu generator that determines whether to generate a particular library menu of the books located in the collection according to the received selection [[form]] from the subscriber and determines whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;

a selecting device that selects search criteria for the searchable menu based on the subscriber-entered criteria and the subscriber-defined criteria;

a repository that stores the subscriber-entered criteria or the subscriber-created criteria; and

a display, connected to the connector, that displays the particular library menu relating to the determination of the menu generator.

108. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing text material in textual data form using an electronic signal and a transmission medium, comprising:

processing an electronic order for one or more electronic books;
transmitting the electronic order over a transmission medium from a home subsystem to a remote operations center;
in response to the electronic order, coding textual data corresponding to one or more electronic books onto an electronic signal;
transmitting the electronic signal over a transmission medium from the remote operations center to the home subsystem to be stored in a library unit of the home subsystem until the one or more electronic books is selected for viewing;
receiving the electronic signal from the transmission medium;
storing the textual data in an electronic collection at the subscriber's location;
receiving one of a subscriber-entered criteria and a subscriber-defined criteria;
determining whether to generate a particular library menu of the books located in the electronic collection according to the received selection from the subscriber and determining whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;
selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on the subscriber-entered criteria and the subscriber-defined criteria;
storing the subscriber-entered criteria or the subscriber-created criteria at the subscriber's location;
displaying the particular library menu relating to the determination;
and
receiving a subscriber entry indicating a title of an electronic book, wherein the title correlates to a portion of the textual data.

109. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal in response to the transmission of an electronic purchase order, comprising:

means for producing an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data;

means, connected to the producing means, for transmitting the electronic signal, in response to receiving an electronic purchase order, from a remote operations center to a home subsystem, wherein the electronic text is stored in a library unit of the home subsystem until selected for viewing;

means for receiving the electronic signal;

means, connected to the receiving means, for storing an electronic collection of the received electronic signal containing a representation of textual data and a subscriber-entered criteria, or a subscriber-created criteria at the location of the subscriber;

means for receiving one of a subscriber-entered criteria and a subscriber-defined criteria;

means, connected to the storing means, for determining whether to generate a particular library menu of the textual data located in the electronic collection according to the received selection and whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection; [[and]]

means, connected to the storing means for selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on the subscriber-entered criteria and the subscriber-defined criteria; and

means, connected to the receiving means, for displaying the particular library menu relating to the textual data and based upon the determination.